

**In the Claims**

Applicants have submitted a new complete claim set showing marked up claims with insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend pending claims 1, 3, 8, 10, and 12 as noted below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing an object comprising:  
prescanning the object using a multiple energy X-ray device to determine information indicative of effective atomic number characteristics of the object;  
transmitting the information to a processor coupled to a computed tomography device;  
and  
conducting scans of areas of interest of the object with a the computed tomography device based upon the information.

2. Cancelled

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~2~~1, further comprising:  
performing a metal artifact correction based on the information.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein performing a metal artifact correction includes performing a beam hardening correction.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein performing a metal artifact correction includes performing a scatter correction.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
using the information to determine density characteristics of the object.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
using the information to determine a plane of the object to be scanned.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing an object comprising:  
prescanning the ~~item~~ object using a multiple energy X-ray device to determine prescan information;  
transmitting the prescan information to a processor coupled to a computed tomography device;  
performing a computed tomography scan of a plane of the object based on the prescan information; and  
performing a metal artifact correction on the computed tomography scan based on the prescan information if the plane intersects an area including or near a metal object.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the processor is located within the computed tomography device.
10. (Currently amended) An apparatus for analyzing an object comprising:  
a multiple energy prescanner that prescans the object; and  
a computed tomography device that scans ~~only~~ areas of interest of the object based on information indicative of effective atomic number characteristics of the object transmitted from the multiple energy prescanner determined in the prescan.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the multiple energy prescanner has a high energy X-ray source and a low energy X-ray source.
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a conveyor for transporting the ~~item~~ object from the multiple energy prescanner to the computed tomography device.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the computed tomography device is a multiple energy computed tomography device.

14. (Original) An apparatus for analyzing an object comprising:  
a multiple energy prescanner; and  
a computed tomography device;  
wherein information indicative of at least one metal artifact is transmitted from the multiple energy prescanner to the computed tomography device.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the information comprises transmitting the information to a processor coupled to a computed tomography device, the computed tomography device comprising a portion of a unit that also comprises the multiple energy x-ray device.

16. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein conducting scans comprises conducting scans of areas of interest of the object with the computed tomography device based upon the information to determine second information, the method further comprising:  
transmitting the second information to a processor to determine whether to modify the information indicative of effective atomic number characteristics of the object.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the second information is indicative of density characteristics of the object.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the multiple energy prescanner and the computed tomography device are implemented as a single unit.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the information indicative of effective atomic number characteristics of the object is updated based on second information generated by the computed tomography device.

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20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the second information is indicative of density characteristics of the object.